

DOCKET NO.: 278290US0X PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
SUMIE SUDA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: FOGARTY, CAITLIN
SERIAL NO: 10/549,753 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1793
FOR: STEEL WIRE FOR HIGH :
STRENGTH SPRING EXCELLENT IN :
WORKABILITY AND HIGH STRENGTH :
SPRING

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated February 20, 2009, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 are pending.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,338,763 to Hashimura et al. ("Hashimura") in view of "Fracture Toughness Properties – Effects of Microstructure and Heat Treatment," from *Metals Handbook Desk Edition* ("Metals Handbook"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] steel wire for a high-strength spring having superior workability, the steel wire comprising tempered martensite, and comprising by mass: C: 0.53 to 0.68%; Si: 1.2 to 2.5%; Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%; Cr: 1.4 to 2.5%; Al: 0.05% or less, excluding 0%; at least